

Appln. No. 10/620,832

Attorney Docket No. 10114-15
Client Reference No. 03-636**II. Remarks**

Claims 1-16 are rejected and pending. With the remarks provided below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a withdrawal of all rejections.

Responsive to the rejections of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the combination of *Manke et. al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,073) and *Clere* (J.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0006511) does not teach all of the elements of each of the independent claims 1, 14, 15, and 16. For example, claim 1 (see also claims 4, 5, and 9) of the present application recites "diffusing a coating agent in a supercritical fluid between layered particles of a graphite structure defining contacted graphite particles." Neither *Manke et. al.* nor *Clere* teaches "a coating agent" or "diffusing a coating agent" as recited in claim 1 (and any of claims 4, 5, or 9) of the present application. *Manke et. al.* merely teaches a method of delaminating a layered silicate, and *Clere* simply teaches a method of making delaminated hexagonal boron nitride powder by a milling process. Furthermore, the cited references alone or in combination, do not suggest "a coating agent" or "diffusing a coating agent" as recited in the claimed invention.

In another example, claim 15 (see also claim 16) of the present application recites "exfoliated layered graphite particles coated with a coating agent." Again, neither *Manke et. al.* nor *Clere* teaches such limitations as recited in claim 15 (and claim 16). Furthermore, the cited references, alone or in combination, do not suggest such limitations.

The cited references, alone or in combination, also do not teach all of the limitations recited in each of dependent claims 2-13. Moreover, claim 2-13 generally depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 2-13 are allowable for the reasons provided above.

Thus, claim 1-16 are in a condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,


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